

HINTS AND HELP TO BEGIN OR ADD TO YOUR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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We have attendees from Chambers of Commerce, County Extension Offices, Conservation Districts, School Districts, and agriculture based organizations attending these two days; working together these are resources for your program.

1. Decide what you want to accomplish if starting your program or adding to your present program.
2. Who will coordinate? Need few to co-coordinate and administer details.
3. What is available for education stations? In addition to the basic stations, there are many more options than seen today.
4. Who is available locally to make the presentations? Seek professionals in their field.
5. Who is available to volunteer to perform details? FFA members, organization members, retired individuals.
6. Select a time of the year when resources and presenters are available. Plan at least one-year in advance notifying all schools, to avoid conflicts with school events and special days.
7. Write a budget. Seek funding and in-kind sources; local businesses and organizations, and State agencies. Establish relations with a non-profit to use for grant requests.
8. Compile a ten-fifteen minute presentation program.
9. Meet with local County Superintendent of Schools to obtain support. Verify what grade level of students to target (fits 4th grade curriculum).
10. Make appointments to meet with each school Trustees/Superintendents/Principals and 4th grade teachers to announce your program, make presentation and ask for participation. Obtain teacher names, e-mail addresses, and mailing addresses for communication.
11. Select a rural location that will accommodate enrollment expected, and adequate convenient parking. Accommodation must provide efficient class rotation and all-weather conditions.
12. Gather quality pre-event and post-event teaching aids for classroom use, deliver to each teacher registered to attend early in the school year.
13. Encourage teachers to attend the special "Agriculture in the Classroom" education program at Montana State University in partnership with Agriculture in Montana Schools, for added credits, each summer after the end of the school year.

"If you are eating, you are involved in Agriculture."